

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 10, 13-14, 19, 21-23, and 28 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 11 and 20 being canceled, and Claims 1, 10, 19, and 28 being amended. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 13, 19, 21, 22, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekine (U.S. Patent No. 6,137,825) in view of Kondo (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,138). At the same time, the Examiner indicated that Claims 11 and 20 are in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim.

Applicants have incorporated the limitations of Claims 11 and 20 into independent Claims 10 and 19, respectively. Additionally, Applicants have added similar limitations to independent Claims 1 and 28. As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 393032006700. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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